

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3841

S E C R E T KINSHASA 5062

NODIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NIACT IMMED KINSHASA FROM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
ON MAY 28, 1977 REPEATED FOR YOU:

QUOTE

S E C R E T LUBUMBASHI 0365

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: TROUBLES

REF: KINSHASA 5055

1. WHAT A LOUSY WAY TO START A HOLIDAY.

2. TEXT OF "MALICIOUS REMARKS" SEEM LARGELY, THOUGH NOT TOTALLY,
TO HAVE COME FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH DR. MAMBIKA, WHO IS PHYSICIAN
DIRECTOR OF GENERAL HOSPITAL IN KOLWEZI. I HAVE MET MAMBIKA
TWICE. FIRST TIME WAS PROBABLY APRIL 3 (I DID NOT NOTE DATE ON
MY CALENDAR) AT FARM OF MAITRE MBU, A LUBUMBASHI LAWYER, WHO DID
STUDIES AT GEORGETOWN AND WHO HAD INVITED ME TO SEE WHAT HE WAS
DOING WITH LAND HE WAS HOMESTEADING. IT WAS MY SECOND VISIT TO
FARM. MAMBIKA, ALSO A FRIEND OF MBU, AND ONE OTHER ZAIRIAN,
WERE COINCIDENTALLY VISITING. OVER BEER AND LUNCH WE DISCUSSED

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MANY THINGS, INCLUDING INVASION. IN GENERAL I CONFINED MYSELF
TO RATHER VAGUE AND NEUTRAL QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT THEY THOUGHT
WAS HAPPENING AND SHOULD HAPPEN, AS I WAS WORKING ON ASSESSMENT OF
LOCAL THINKING. REMARKS 1-4 SEEM TO HAVE COME FROM THIS LUNCH.
SECOND MEETING WAS ON MAY 24 AT HIS HOSPITAL IN KOLWEZI, WHERE HE
WELCOMED ME PROFUSELY AND PROVIDED GUIDED TOUR. VICE CONSUL
BADER HAD ALSO MET WITH MAMBIKA IN EARLY MAY DURING HIS VISIT

TO KOLWEZI.

3. WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC ACCUSATIONS: (1) I ADMIT THAT IN DISCUSSIONS I SAID WE HAD NO EVIDENCE OF RUSSIAN OR CUBAN INVOLVEMENT AND SO FELT THAT THIS WAS MATTER BEST HANDLED WITHOUT GREAT POWER INVOLVEMENT. (2) IT WAS ONE OF THE ZAIRIANS WHO SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY LACKED AN ARMY CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE WEAPONS WHICH U.S. COULD SUPPLY. OTHER ZAIRIANS AGREED AND LAUGHED. NO RECOLLECTION OF COMMENTS MADE ABOUT BOMBS OR SUBSEQUENT REPAIRS. (3) I NOTED THAT U.S. HAD IN PAST PROVIDED MUCH MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. IT WAS ZAIRIANS WHO SPECULATED WHERE MONEY HAD GONE. (4) AT FIRST MEETING, I ASKED MAMBIKA IF HE HAD RECEIVED ANY OF AMERICAN MEDICINE AT HIS HOSPITAL. HE REPLIED NO AND OTHERS SPECULATED WHERE IT HAD GONE. IT WAS NOT UNTIL SECOND MEETING THAT HE SHOWED ME VERY PROUDLY MEDICINES WHICH PRESIDENT HAD DONATED. WE BOTH AGREED THAT THIS WAS A BOON FOR THE HOSPITAL.

4. I VISITED KOLWEZI ACCOMPANYING AMBASSADOR CUTLER FOR HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU ON MAY 22. CONSULATE HAD INFORMED REGIONAL AUTHORITIES ON MAY 19 THAT WE WANTED TO VISIT KOLWEZI, BUT NO RESPONSE. VICE CONSUL WAS ORIGINALLY TO MAKE TRIP, BUT VISIT OF AMBASSADOR AND ILLNESS OF VICE CONSUL LEFT CHORES TO ME. I REMAINED IN KOLWEZI AFTER AMBASSADOR HAD DEPARTED TO MEET AND TALK WITH VARIOUS PEOPLE, INCLUDING ABOUT 20 AMERICANS RESIDENT IN TOWN. WHILE VISITING DR. HIMMER, HEAD OF GECAMINES HOSPITAL, I WAS INFORMED THAT COL. DIKUTA HAD BEEN INJURED IN INCIDENT AND RECUPERATING IN HOSPITAL. I REMEMBERED NAME, BUT DISMISSED INCIDENT SINCE I DID NOT KNOW WHO COL. DIKUTA WAS UNTIL I RETURNED
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TO LUBUMBASHI AND READ SITREPS. I AM ALMOST CERTAIN NAME WAS NOT MENTIONED WHILE VISITING MAMBIKA LATER THE SAME DAY.

5. I SAW MWANT YAV TWICE ON MAY 24. FIRST TIME WAS 10 A.M. WHEN I WAS ACCOMPANYING METHODIST MISSIONARIES WHO WANTED TO FIND OUT IF MWANT YAV HAD RECEIVED ANY RECENT WORD FROM AMERICANS IN KAPANGA. DURING THIS VISIT ASSISTANT REGIONAL COMMISSIONER ALEMO VISITED MWANT YAV FOR NO STATED REASON, BUT NOTED OUR PRESENCE. SINCE MWANT YAV HAS BEEN IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH ALL MEMBERS OF CONSULAR CORPS SINCE INVASION BEGAN AND WAS REGULARLY EXCHANGING INTELLIGENCE WITH FRENCH, I SAW NO DANGER IN TALKING WITH HIM. SINCE ALEMO WAS AWARE OF MY PRESENCE IN KOLWEZI, I ALSO CALLED ON REGIONAL COMMISSIONER WHO HAS BEEN IN KOLWEZI NEARLY THREE WEEKS TO SAY I HAD ARRIVED WITH AMBASSADOR AND WAS HOLDING MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS AMERICANS. I TALKED SPECIFICALLY WITH HIM ABOUT DATES FOR PROPOSED VISIT TO U.S. UNDER USIS GRANT.

6. SECOND MEETING WITH MWANT YAV WAS AT 5:00 P.M. ON MAY 24. WE DISCUSSED A VARIETY OF ISSUES, MOSTLY HAVING TO DO WITH FATE

OF HIS PEOPLE AND HIS ADMIRATION FOR FRENCH EFFORTS. THERE WERE NO EVENING OR MIDNIGHT MEETINGS WITH MWANT YAV. I SPENT EVENING OF MAY 24 WITH VICTOR FORREST, WHO IS LOCAL CONTRACTOR. I DEPARTED FROM KOLWEZI AT 1600 ON MAY 25.

7. I BELIEVE THAT ACCUSATIONS ARE NONSENSE, BUT IF ACCUSATIONS MUST BE MADE I AM HAPPY THEY ARE SO FEEBLE AND EASILY DENIED.

8. I DO NOT THINK THAT EITHER MAMBIKA OR MWANT YAV IS INFORMER, BUT RATHER THAT THEY WERE GRILLED FOLLOWING MY DEPARTURE. SINCE AMBASSADOR HAD SEEN MOBUTU ON MAY 22 AND ISSUE APPARENTLY NOT RAISED, ZAIRIAN ACTION BEGAN AFTER ALEMO SAW ME WITH MWANT YAV AND POSSIBLY PUT A TRAIL ON ME. MEETINGS WITH MAMBIKA AND MWANT YAV WERE LAST TWO MEETINGS I HELD ON AFTERNOON OF MAY 24.

9. MAMBIKA HAD TOLD VICE CONSUL IN EARLIER MEETING ABOUT 300 CORPSES IN LUFUPA HE WAS FORCED TO BURY, BUT THIS DOES NOT SHOW
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UP IN ACCUSATIONS. THIS WAS UNDOUBTEDLY MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF INFORMATION HE PASSED TO US. I MADE NO INQUIRY ABOUT SUBJECT IN MY MEETING AND HE OFFERED NOTHING FURTHER. I BELIEVE THAT THIS STORY OF FAZ BRUTALITIES MAY BE WHAT THEY ARE TRYING TO ASSURE THAT NOBODY LEARNS.

10. MWANT YAV PASSED MESSAGE THROUGH METHODISTS ON MORNING OF MAY 28 (THROUGH THEIR CODED NAMES SYSTEM) THAT HE WAS VERY FEARFUL ABOUT HIS FUTURE AND INTERESTED IN CONTACTING US. METHODISTS LATER ADDED THEY LEARNED MWANT YAV WAS PICKED UP BY MILITARY ON EVENING OF MAY 27.

11. I AM NOT SURE OF NEXT STEPS. I WOULD HOPE THAT MATTER CAN BE SORTED OUT AND THAT I CAN REMAIN HERE, BUT AM FEARFUL THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE DECIDED THEY DO NOT LIKE ME, AND IF THIS IS THE CASE I AM UNCERTAIN ABOUT MY LIKELY EFFECTIVENESS WITH THEM IN THE FUTURE. ADDED FACTOR MAY BE THE CONSULATE HAS WIDESPREAD CONTACTS AMONG ZAIRIAN COMMUNITY IN SHABA WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HOPES TO DISCOURAGE IN THE FUTURE. LOCAL AUTHORITIES ALSO HAVE BEEN VERY UPSET ABOUT CONSULATE'S FREQUENT VISITS TO KOLWEZI, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE PROVIDED ADVANCE NOTICE ON EACH OCCASION, AND WHEN DENIAL HAS ARRIVED PROMPTLY WE HAVE NOT TRAVELLED. I CANNOT IMAGINE LOCAL OFFICIALS WILL BE MORE COOPERATIVE WITH AMERICANS DURING NEXT YEAR AS LONG AS I AM PRESENT.

12. I AM UNSURE OF APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL USG REACTION, BUT AM UPSET THAT THEY COULD FEEL SO STRONGLY. I ALSO DISLIKE IDEA THAT BECAUSE OF "TRADITIONAL GOOD RELATIONS" I WILL DEPART QUIETLY. PERHAPS WE SHOULD ASK FOR OFFICIAL PNG ACTION. THIS, HOWEVER, MAY ESCALATE ISSUE FURTHER THAN WOULD BE IN U.S. INTEREST. PERHAPS WE MIGHT CALL BLUFF ON PNG ACTION AND THEN LEAVE QUIETLY.

DECISION SHOULD REST WITH EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT.

13. I HAD PLANNED TO DEPART FOR TEN DAYS OF HOLIDAY IN ZAMBIA
THIS MORNING AND IF THIS APPEARS AS TEMPORARY SOLUTION, I WOULD
BE PLEASED TO GO. OTHERWISE, I WILL AWAIT MY FATE HERE.

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14. PEACE.
BORG
UNQUOTE WALKER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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